

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A barrel for a writing implement, the barrel comprising:

a barrel body having a gripping part, the gripping part having a front end and a back end;

and

a grip member of layered structure formed by assembling an inner member ~~of a soft material~~ and an outer member, the grip member being disposed on the gripping part of the barrel body,

wherein the inner member is covered with the outer member, and the grip member is formed in an assembly facilitating shape for facilitating putting the outer member on the inner member,

wherein each of the inner member and the outer member is formed prior to putting the outer member on the inner member such that each of the inner member and the outer member constitutes a preformed member,

wherein the inner member has a first distal end disposed at the front end of the gripping part and a second distal end disposed at the back end of the gripping part,

wherein the outer member has a first distal end disposed at the front end of the gripping part and a second distal end disposed at the back end of the gripping part,

wherein the assembly facilitating shape is a tapered configuration, the outer member tapering to the second distal end thereof, and the inner member tapering from the second distal end thereof to the first distal end thereof, and ~~the inner member being tapered from a back part thereof to a front part thereof and the outer member being tapered from a front part thereof to a back part thereof, and~~

wherein ~~the inside diameter of the outer member is greater than the outside diameter of the inner member, and~~ the outer member is configured to be axially compressed when put on the grip part of the barrel body.

2-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) The barrel for a writing implement according to claim 1, wherein each of the outer member and the inner member are formed such that, before putting the outer member onto the inner member, the outer member has an inside diameter greater than an outside diameter of the inner member, and

wherein the outer member is put on the inner member so as to be separable from the inner member and the barrel body.

5. (Previously Presented) The barrel for a writing implement according to claim 1, wherein the outer member is transparent or semitransparent and the inner member is colored in a color different from that of the outer member.

6. (Original) The barrel for a writing implement according to claim 5, wherein the inside surface of the outer member is glossy.

7. (Currently Amended) The barrel for a writing implement according to claim 1, wherein the inner member and the outer member are made of materials of different hardnesses,

~~respectively, the inner member being is made of a soft material having a low hardness, and the outer member being is made of a soft material having a high hardness.~~

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) The barrel for a writing implement according to claim 1, wherein the first distal end of the outer member is provided with a radially inwardly extending protrusion, the radially inwardly extending protrusion having a bottom surface and a back surface, and protrusion at the front part thereof, and wherein a back end surface of the protrusion is in contact with the front end surface of the inner member.

wherein the bottom surface of the radially inwardly extending protrusion contacts the barrel body and the back surface of the radially inwardly extending protrusion contacts the inner member, and

wherein the outer member tapers from the radially inwardly extending protrusion to the second distal end of the outer member.

10. (Previously Presented) The barrel for a writing implement according to claim 1, wherein a part of the outer member corresponding to the inner member has a mean wall thickness between 1 and 5 mm.

11-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously Presented) The barrel for a writing implement according to claim 4, wherein the outer member is transparent or semitransparent and the inner member is colored in a color different from that of the outer member.

16-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) The barrel for a writing implement according to claim 4, wherein the inner member and the outer member are made of materials of different hardnesses, ~~respectively,~~ the inner member being is-made of a soft material having a low hardness, and the outer member being is-made of a soft material having a high hardness.

19. (Currently Amended) The barrel for a writing implement according to claim 5, wherein the inner member and the outer member are made of materials of different hardnesses, ~~respectively,~~ the inner member being is-made of a soft material having a low hardness, and the outer member being is-made of a soft material having a high hardness.

20. (Currently Amended) The barrel for a writing implement according to claim 6, wherein the inner member and the outer member are made of materials of different hardnesses, ~~respectively,~~ the inner member being is-made of a soft material having a low hardness, and the outer member being is-made of a soft material having a high hardness.

21. (Currently Amended) The barrel for a writing implement according to claim 1, wherein the outer member tapers from the first distal end to the second distal end, and

wherein the first distal end ~~front part~~ of the outer member circumscribes the first distal end ~~front part~~ of the inner member and the second distal end ~~back part~~ of the outer member circumscribes the second distal end ~~back part~~ of the inner member such that the inner member and the outer member are coextensive over the barrel body and are tapered in opposite directions.

22. (New) A barrel for a writing implement according to claim 1, wherein the barrel body further includes a threaded portion, the threaded portion being provided for connecting to a barrel cap, and

wherein the threaded portion is disposed in a position relative to said grip member such that the outer member of the grip member is axially compressed by the barrel cap when the barrel cap is connected to the threaded portion.

23. (New) A barrel for a writing implement, the barrel comprising:

a barrel body having a gripping part, the gripping part having a front end and a back end; and

a grip member of layered structure formed by assembling an inner member and an outer member, the grip member being disposed on the gripping part of the barrel body such that the inner member contacts the gripping part of the barrel body,

wherein the inner member is covered with the outer member, and the grip member is formed in an assembly facilitating shape for facilitating putting the outer member on the inner member,

wherein each of the inner member and the outer member is formed prior to putting the outer member on the inner member such that each of the inner member and the outer member constitutes a preformed member,

wherein the inner member has a first distal end disposed at the front end of the gripping part and a second distal end disposed at the back end of the gripping part, the inner member being formed with an outside diameter m at the first distal end thereof and an outside diameter n at the second distal end thereof,

wherein the outer member has a first distal end disposed at the front end of the gripping part and a second distal end disposed at the back end of the gripping part, the outer member being formed with an inside diameter M at the first distal end thereof and an inside diameter N at the second distal end thereof,

wherein the assembly facilitating shape is a tapered configuration, the outer member tapering from the first distal end thereof to the second distal end thereof such that $M < N$, and the inner member tapering from the second distal end thereof to the first distal end thereof such that $m < n$, and

wherein the outer member is configured to be axially compressed when put on the grip part of the barrel body.

24. (New) The barrel for a writing implement according to claim 23, wherein each of the outer member and the inner member are formed such that, before putting the outer member onto the inner member, $m < M$ and $n < N$, and

wherein the outer member is put on the inner member so as to be separable from the inner member and the barrel body.

25. (New) The barrel for a writing implement according to claim 23, wherein the outer member is transparent or semitransparent and the inner member is colored in a color different from that of the outer member.

26. (New) The barrel for a writing implement according to claim 23, wherein the inner member and the outer member are made of materials of different hardnesses, the inner member being made of a soft material having a low hardness, and the outer member being made of a soft material having a high hardness.

27. (New) The barrel for a writing implement according to claim 23, wherein a part of the outer member corresponding to the inner member has a mean wall thickness between 1 and 5 mm.

28. (New) The barrel for a writing implement according to claim 23, wherein the first distal end of the outer member circumscribes the first distal end of the inner member and the second distal end of the outer member circumscribes the second distal end of the inner member such that the inner member and the outer member are coextensive over the barrel body and are tapered in opposite directions.

29. (New) A barrel for a writing implement according to claim 23, wherein the barrel body further includes a threaded portion, the threaded portion being provided for connecting to a barrel cap, and

wherein the threaded portion is disposed in a position relative to said grip member such that the outer member of the grip member is axially compressed by the barrel cap when the barrel cap is connected to the threaded portion.

30. (New) A barrel for a writing implement, the barrel comprising:

a barrel body having a gripping part, the gripping part having a front end and a back end; and

a grip member of layered structure formed by assembling an inner member and an outer member, the grip member being disposed on the gripping part of the barrel body,

wherein the inner member is covered with the outer member, and the grip member is formed in an assembly facilitating shape for facilitating putting the outer member on the inner member,

wherein each of the inner member and the outer member is formed prior to putting the outer member on the inner member such that each of the inner member and the outer member constitutes a preformed member,

wherein the inner member has a first distal end disposed at the front end of the gripping part and a second distal end disposed at the back end of the gripping part,

wherein the outer member has a first distal end disposed at the front end of the gripping part and a second distal end disposed at the back end of the gripping part,

wherein the first distal end of the outer member is provided with a radially inwardly extending protrusion, the radially inwardly extending protrusion having a bottom surface and a back surface,

wherein the bottom surface of the radially inwardly extending protrusion contacts the barrel body and the back surface of the radially inwardly extending protrusion contacts the inner member, and

wherein the assembly facilitating shape is a tapered configuration, the outer member tapering from the radially inwardly extending protrusion toward the second distal end thereof,

wherein the outer member is configured to be axially compressed when put on the grip part of the barrel body.